Flouting ban on export of pulses

1086. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics have been regularly updating Government on pulses being shipped out during the ban period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government had taken against the exporters who had flouted the ban on the export of pulses, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics brings out after a time lag of about six month and makes available regularly on monthly basis the publication 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India'; Volume-I (Exports) that gives item-wise details of export.

(c) Cases have been registered against three exporters *viz.* M/S. KRBL Ltd., M/S Jet King International and M/S Kohinoor Foods with CBI. Action under FTDR Act has also been initiated against the above named exporters for suspension/ cancellation of IEC and imposition of penalty.

New Field firing range in A.P.

1087. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has permitted the establishment of a new field firing range in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the life safety measures adopted to prevent firing accidents; and

(c) the details of relief and rehabilitation measures taken by Government to compensate the victims?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply in (a) above.

Construction of road upto base camp of Mount Everest by Chinese Government

1088. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese Government are constructing a 105 km long road up to the base camp of Mount Everest;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the implications of the Chinese proposal from the point of view of country's defence as also the environmental angle; and

(c) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Xinhua (official Chinese news agency) reported on 19th June 2007 that China would begin building a "highway" on Mount Everest in Tibet Autonomous Region so as to ease the path of those bearing the Olympic torch. Construction of the road will kick off at Everest Base Camp. The project aims to turn a 108-km rough road linking Tingri County of Xigaze prefecture at the foot of the mountain to the Base Camp into a blacktop highway fenced by undulating guardrails. On completion, the highway will become a major route for tourists and mountaineers. The Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Procurement of fighter aircrafts for IAF

†1089. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 126 fighter planes are being procured for the Indian Air Force;

(b) whether there has been an understanding with Russia/America for partnership regarding joint development and manufacturing of fighter planes; and

(c) by when the fighter planes are likely to be procured?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Government is processing a case for procurement of 126 Multi Medium Role Combat Aircraft for the Indian Air Force.

(b) There is no understanding at present with either Russia or America regarding joint development or manufacturing of these fighter planes.

(c) The purchase of aircraft is being made in accordance with the Defence Procurement Procedure-2006 which also indicates likely time to be taken for conclusion of contracts for such major purchases.

Foreign tour of Indian Army Officers

1090. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether military officers are allowed to contact the foreign missions directly;

(b) whether it is a fact that foreign tour of several Indian Army Officers on the invitation of United States of America were permitted by his Ministry as reported in the media;

(c) whether the Naval Chief has defined this tour of military officers as the violation of security rules; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.